Committee for monitoring implementation of programme for the Minorities

3504. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any committee in his Ministry for monitoring implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the Minorities ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of persons who have been provided with employment during tne last three years under the programme.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Monitoring of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities in the Ministry is being done on regular basis. However no committee has been appointed for this purpose. A nodal officer of the level of Joint Secretary has been entrusted with this work. A quarterly review of employment of candidates belonging to minority communities in the recruitment made to various posts in the Ministry as well as representation of a member of minority community on Selection Committees Board is conducted and a quarterly return is also furnished to the nodal Ministry namely Ministry of Welfare.

Information regarcing persons belonging to minority communities provided employment in the Secretariat of the Ministry for the last three years is given below :—

	1989	1990	1991
Group A .	2	2	—
Group B .	1	—	—
Group C .	—	1	1
Group D .	—	—	—

Herbal and Aromatic Plants

3505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any law under which the forest produce like herbal and aromatic plants are protected, if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether Government are aware that herbal and aromatic plants worth hundreds of crores of rupees are either being exported or smuggled out of the country from the Himalayan ranges every year ;

(c) whether these herbs and aromatic plants are also consumed by the drug and perfumery industry in the country ;

(d) if so, whether these plants are exported/used by indigenous industry under proper licences ; and

(e) if answer is in negative what measures are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) Aromatic